

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HOUSE RULES OF PROCEDURE 77TH LEGISLATURE - 2001

H.R. 5 by Wilson

Rule 1--Duties and Rights of the Speaker

No changes.

Rule 2--Employees

No changes.

Rule 3--Standing Committees

1. The jurisdictions of the standing committees have been updated to reflect the abolition, creation, and name changes of state agencies by the legislature. A summary of those changes follows:

Section 12. ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION -- The committee's jurisdiction has been updated to reflect the abolition of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority and the creation of the board of the Texas Environmental Education Partnership Fund.

Section 27. PUBLIC HEALTH -- The committee's jurisdiction has been updated to reflect the abolition of the Texas Hospital Equipment Financing Council.

Section 28. PUBLIC SAFETY -- The committee's jurisdiction has been updated to reflect the change in name of the Texas Board of Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies to the Texas Commission on Private Security and the change in name of the Advisory Commission on State Emergency Communications to the Commission on State Emergency Communications.

Section 31. STATE AFFAIRS -- The committee's jurisdiction has been updated to reflect the abolition of the State Conservatorship Board.

2. Specific jurisdiction over problems and issues particularly affecting rural areas of the state has been added to the jurisdiction of the Land and Resource Management Committee.
(Rule 3, Section 21--page 30)
3. The membership of the Redistricting Committee has been increased from 11 to 15 members.
(Rule 3, Section 29--page 36)

Rule 4--Organization, Powers, and Duties of Committees

4. Language has been added to give the chair of a committee the authority to summon the governing board or other representatives of a state agency to testify before the committee without issuing a subpoena. This has been done to provide state agencies the notice necessary to post a meeting of their own agency in the event that a quorum of the governing body of that agency is asked to testify at a house committee hearing.
(Rule 4, Section 21(b)--page 55)

Rule 5--Floor Procedure

No changes.

Rule 6--Order of Business and Calendars

No changes.

Rule 7--Motions

No changes.

Rule 8--Bills

5. The provisions of the rules relating to the requirement for three readings and the effective date of bills have been modified to reflect the approval by the voters in 1999 of HJR 62, which, among other things, eliminated the constitutional requirement for the emergency clause. In accordance with the changes in the constitution, bills for which the three reading rule is to be suspended will still require a record vote of four-fifths of the members present and voting, and bills needing immediate effect will still require a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house.

(Rule 8, Sections 15 and 20--pages 133 & 135)

6. The provision of the rules prohibiting the consideration during the first 120 days of the session of individual non-emergency bills that appropriate general revenue has been modified to allow consideration of such bills after the 118th day.

(Rule 8, Section 22(a)--page 136)

Rule 9--Joint Resolutions

No changes.

Rule 10--House Resolutions and Concurrent Resolutions

No changes.

Rule 11--Amendments

No changes.

Rule 12--Printing

No changes.

Rule 13--Interactions with the Governor and Senate

No changes.

Rule 14--General Provisions

7. The provision of the rules relating to parliamentary sources upon which the house may rely when the house rules are silent has been changed to replace the specific reference to Hind's and Cannon's Precedents, which document congressional precedents through 1936, with a general reference to published precedents to allow the house to utilize all published precedents of the U.S. House of Representatives, including the most recent published precedents.

(Rule 14, Section 1--page 164)